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GHOST RIDER™
50th ISSUE!
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FEATURING--THE NIGHT RIDER™
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Turbo Trans Am (1/8)

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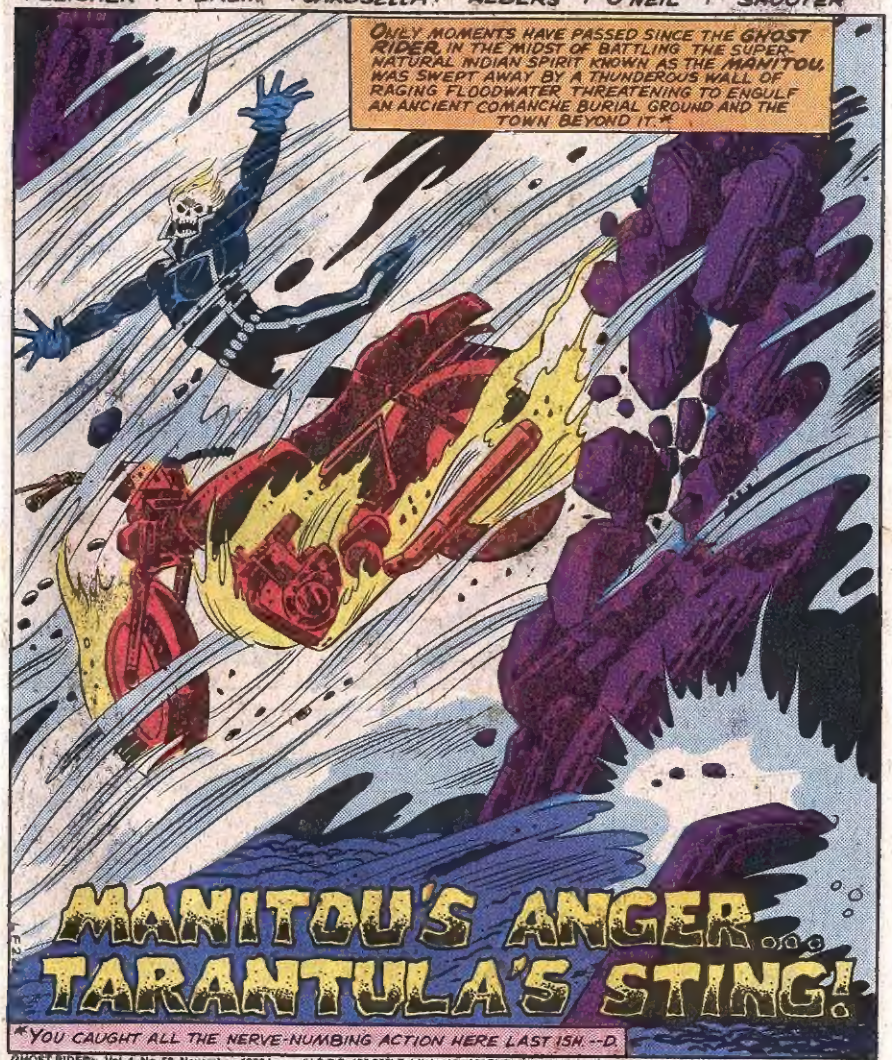
THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hellfire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee Presents: THE GHOST RIDER!

SCRIPT BY MICHAEL FLEISHER | ART BY DON PERLIN | COLORS BY ROBBIE CAROSELLA | LETTERS BY DIANA ALBERS | EDITED BY DENNIS O'NEIL | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JIM SHOOTER


ONLY MOMENTS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE GHOST RIDER, IN THE MIDST OF BATTLING THE SUPER-NATURAL INDIAN SPIRIT KNOWN AS THE MANITOU, WAS SWEPT AWAY BY A THUNDEROUS WALL OF RAGING FLOODWATER, THREATENING TO ENGULF AN ANCIENT COMANCHE BURIAL GROUND AND THE TOWN BEYOND IT.*
MANITOU'S ANGER... TARANTULA'S STING!
*YOU CAUGHT ALL THE NERVE-NUMBING ACTION HERE LAST ISH. --D.

GHOST RIDER™ Vol. 1, No. 50, November, 1980 Issue. (U.S.P.S. 425-850) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President. Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1980 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $6.00 for 12 issues. Canada, $7.00. Foreign, $8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP.

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AND YET, INCREDIBLY, WHEN THE FEARSOME ROARING OF THE WATER HAD AT LAST SUBSIDED...
WHAT...? WHERE...?
FEAR NOT, DEMON RIDER! YOU ARE SAFE IN THIS PLACE! AT LEAST YOU ARE SAFE... FOR NOW...!
I WARNED YOU, DEMON RIDER! I WARNED YOU THAT IF MY PEOPLE'S PAST WAS DESECRATED BY THE DAMMING OF THE LITTLE THUNDER-BIRD RIVER AND THE FLOODING OF THE ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND SACRED TO MY PEOPLE--
--THAT THE PAST WOULD RISE UP FROM ITS RESTING PLACE--
--TO OBLITERATE THE WHITE MAN'S EVIL WORKS--
--AND TO RESTORE THIS GREAT LAND TO ALL IT WAS BEFORE!
NOW RISE, DEMON RIDER, AND STEP FORTH FROM THIS CAVERN--
--THAT YOU MAY GAZE UPON THE INCOMPARABLE SPLENDOR OF A GLORIOUS BYGONE WORLD!
HOLY TOLEDO! WHAT IS THIS? FIELDS OF TALL BUFFALO GRASS AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE! A GIGANTIC HERD OF GRAZING BUFFALO!

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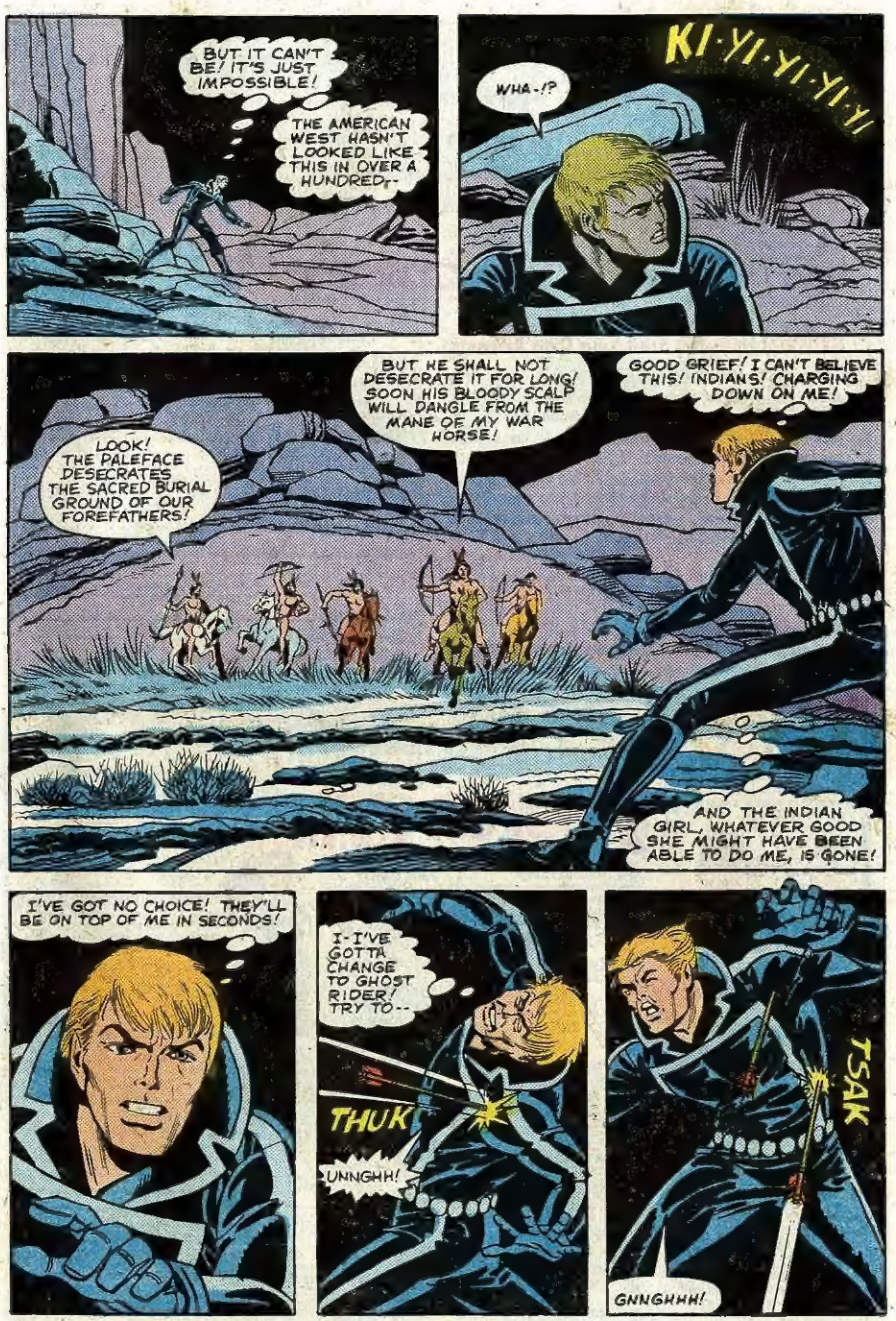
BUT IT CAN'T BE! IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE!
THE AMERICAN WEST HASN'T LOOKED LIKE THIS IN OVER A HUNDRED--
KI-YI-YI-YI-YI
WHA-!?
LOOK! THE PALEFACE DESECRATES THE SACRED BURIAL GROUND OF OUR FOREFATHERS!
BUT HE SHALL NOT DESECRATE IT FOR LONG! SOON HIS BLOODY SCALP WILL DANGLE FROM THE MANE OF MY WAR HORSE!
GOOD GRIEF! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! INDIANS! CHARGING DOWN ON ME!
AND THE INDIAN GIRL, WHATEVER GOOD SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO ME, IS GONE!
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! THEY'LL BE ON TOP OF ME IN SECONDS!
I-I'VE GOTTA CHANGE TO GHOST RIDER! TRY TO--
THUK
UNNGHH!
TSAK
GNNGHHH!

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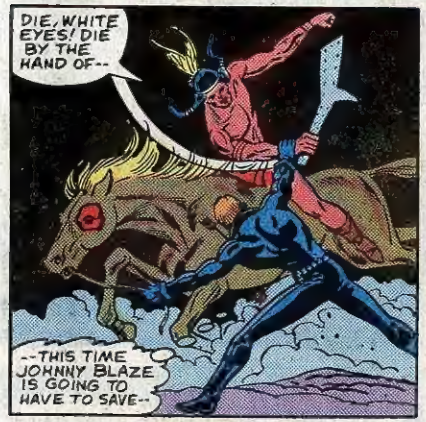
HAA! WE HAVE DRAWN BLOOD, MY BROTHERS! IN ANOTHER MOMENT, THE WHITE MAN SHALL BE DEAD, AND I SHALL HAVE A BLOOD-DRENCHED TROPHY TO PROVE MY VALOR!
IT'S NO USE... PAIN... INTENSE...! CAN'T SUMMON UP THE CONCENTRATION TO...TO CHANGE TO GHOST RIDER! WHICH MEANS--



ONLY THE REDMEN HOT ON MY TRAIL IN THOSE DAYS WERE EXTRAS! AND THE ARROWS WERE TAPED ONTO MY SKIN, NOT... NOT PUNCTURING IT!
AFTER HIM, MY BROTHERS! HE CANNOT ESCAPE US!

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I-I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT THAT INDIAN MAY HAVE A POINT!
I'VE LOST A LOT OF... BLOOD! I-IT'S TAKING ALL THE STRENGTH I'VE GOT JUST TO... TO HANG ON!
OH NO! IT CAN'T BE!
I-I'VE RIDDEN STRAIGHT INTO A BOX CANYON!
I'M TRAPPED!
THAT YOU ARE, WHITE MAN!
NOW PREPARE TO--
KRAAK!
NO! THERE SHALL BE NO WANTON SLAUGHTER IN MY DOMINION!
NOT SO LONG AS THIS LAND AND ALL WHO DWELL IN IT ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF--
THE NIGHT RIDER!

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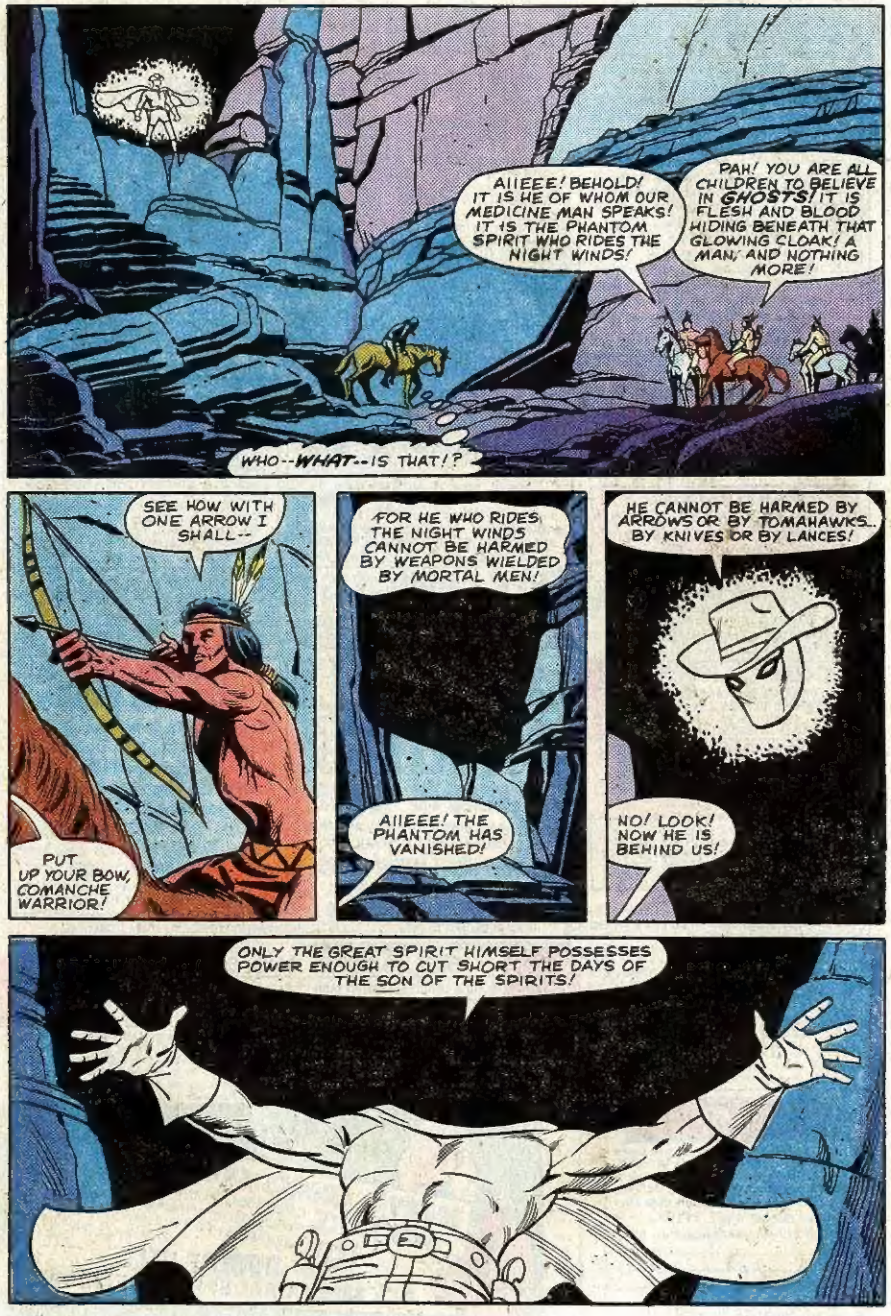
AIIEEE! BEHOLD! IT IS HE OF WHOM OUR MEDICINE MAN SPEAKS! IT IS THE PHANTOM SPIRIT WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS!
PAH! YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN TO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS! IT IS FLESH AND BLOOD HIDING BENEATH THAT GLOWING CLOAK! A MAN, AND NOTHING MORE!
WHO--WHAT--IS THAT!?
SEE HOW WITH ONE ARROW I SHALL--
PUT UP YOUR BOW, COMANCHE WARRIOR!
FOR HE WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS CANNOT BE HARMED BY WEAPONS WIELDED BY MORTAL MEN!
AIIEEE! THE PHANTOM HAS VANISHED!
HE CANNOT BE HARMED BY ARROWS OR BY TOMAHAWKS... BY KNIVES OR BY LANCES!
NO! LOOK! NOW HE IS BEHIND US!
ONLY THE GREAT SPIRIT HIMSELF POSSESSES POWER ENOUGH TO CUT SHORT THE DAYS OF THE SON OF THE SPIRITS!

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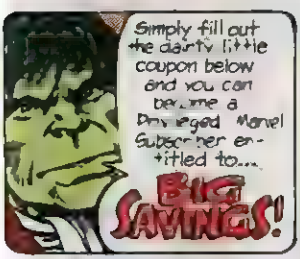
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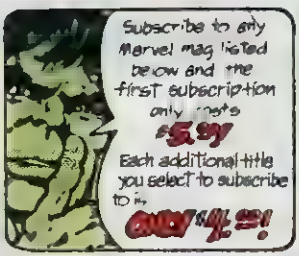
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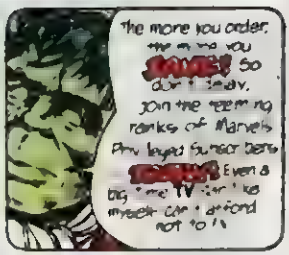
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AND FROM THE WOUNDS INFLICTED BY YOUR ARROWS, HE HAS ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH!
NOW GO! AND SEEK NOT TO HARM THE WHITE MAN FURTHER, LEST I SUMMON FORTH THE SPIRITS OF YOUR ANCESTORS TO RAVAGE YOUR BODIES AND CONDEMN YOUR SOULS TO ETERNAL TORMENT!
STUNNED BY THE SIGHT OF THE EERIE APPARITION HOVERING ABOVE THEM, THE WARRIORS PAUSE ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO MURMUR FEARFULLY AMONG THEMSELVES--
--BEFORE KICKING THEIR FRIGHTENED WAR PONIES INTO A FRENZIED GALLOP AND FLEEING THE CANYON IN A MINDLESS, FEAR-MADDENED PANIC...
FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS THE CANYON IS SILENT, SAVE FOR THE MUFFLED THUNDER OF FADING HOOFBEATS...

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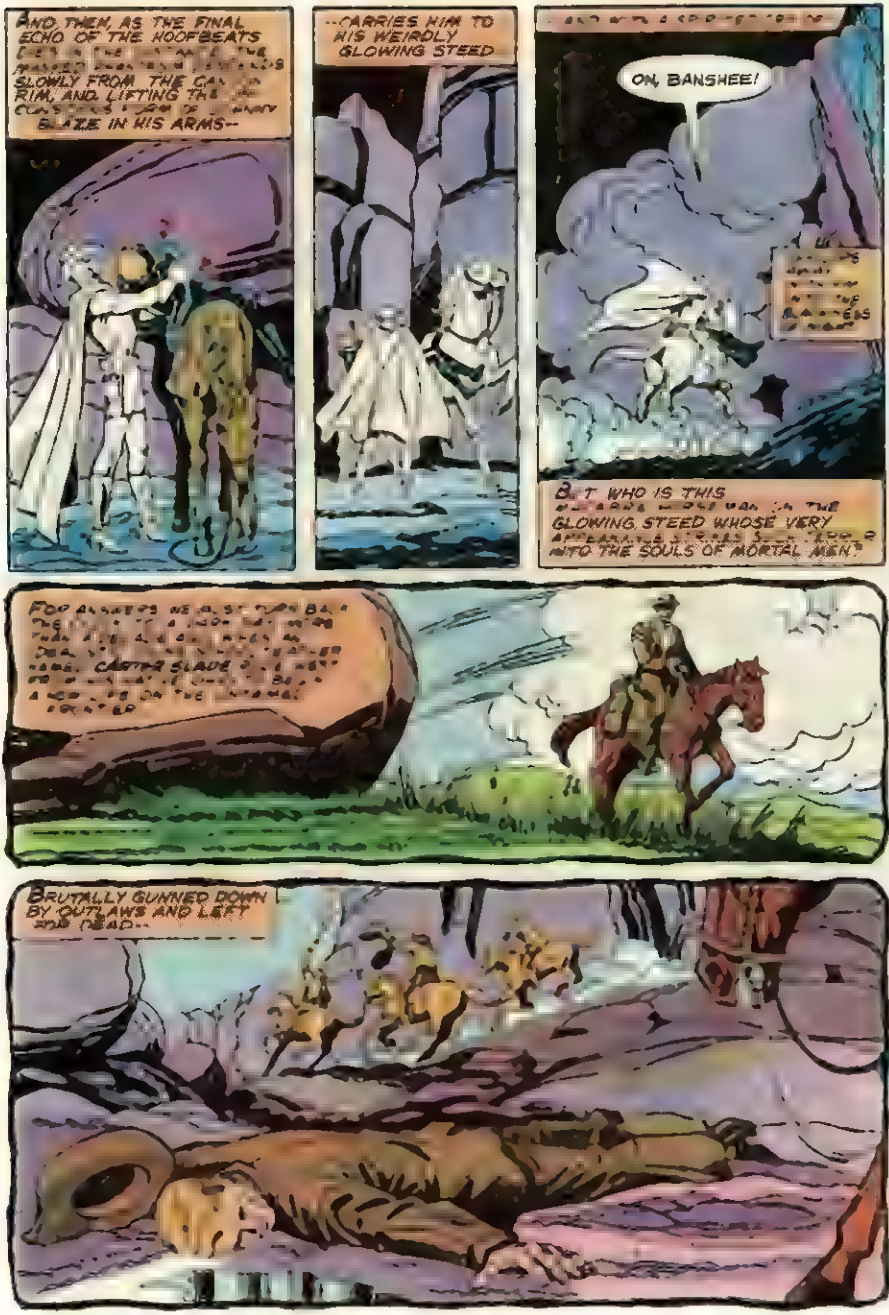
AND THEN, AS THE FINAL ECHO OF THE HOOFBEATS
SLOWLY FROM THE CA
RIM, AND LIFTING THE
BLAZE IN HIS ARMS--
--CARRIES HIM TO HIS WEIRDLY GLOWING STEED
ON, BANSHEE!
BUT WHO IS THIS
GLOWING STEED WHOSE VERY
INTO THE SOULS OF MORTAL MEN?
FOR ALWAYS WE ASK THIS BA
CASTER SLADE
BRUTALLY GUNNED DOWN BY OUTLAWS AND LEFT FOR DEAD--

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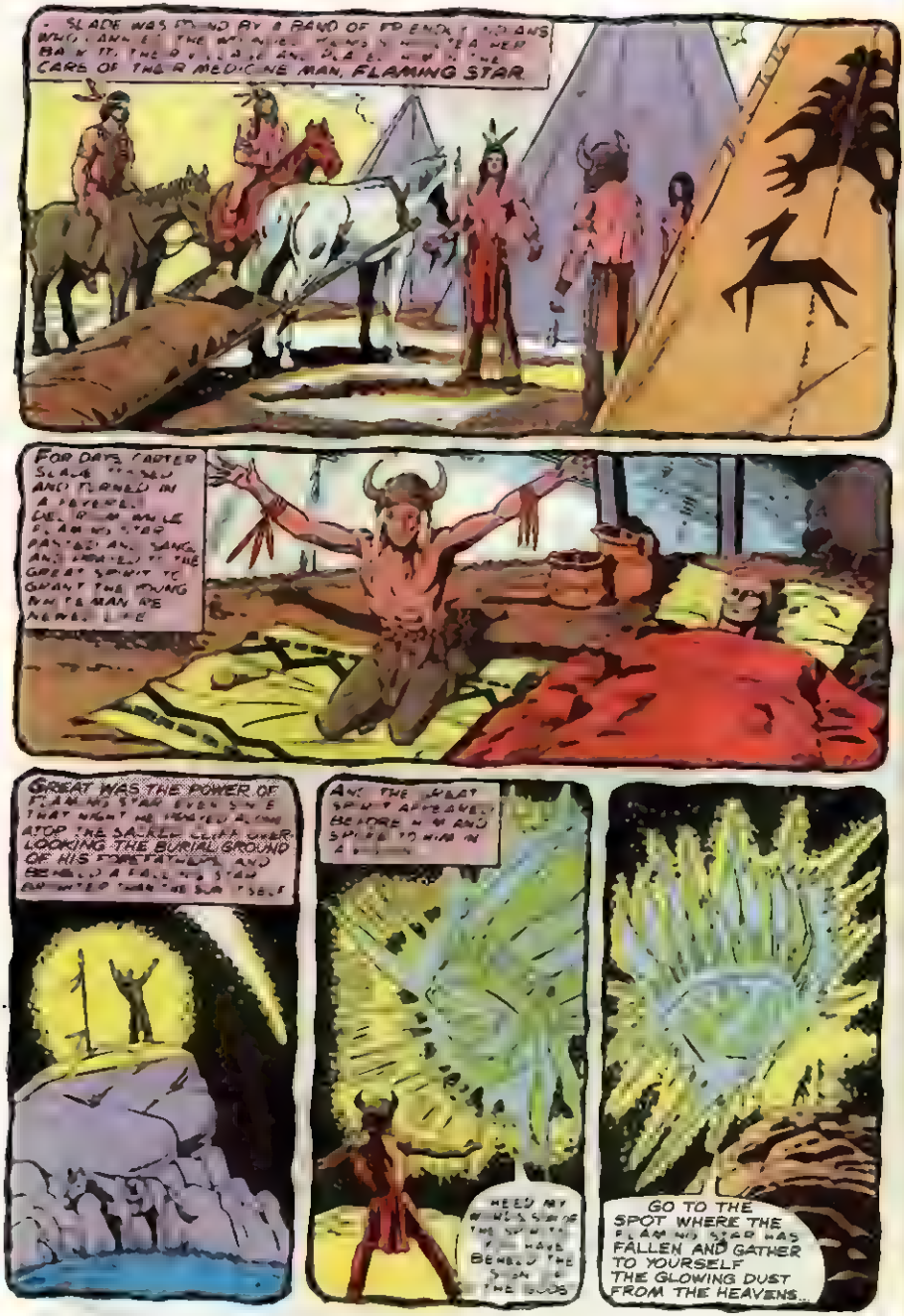
SLADE WAS FOUND BY A BAND OF FRIENDLY INDIANS WHO CARRIED THE WOUNDED MAN'S BODY BACK TO THEIR VILLAGE AND PLACED HIM IN THE CARE OF THEIR MEDICINE MAN, FLAMING STAR
FOR DAYS AFTER SLADE WAS FOUND AND TURNED IN A FEVERISH DELIRIUM WHILE FLAMING STAR PRAYED AND SANG AND DANCED TO THE GREAT SPIRIT TO GRANT THE YOUNG WHITE MAN HIS MENTAL LIFE
GREAT WAS THE POWER OF FLAMING STAR EVEN SINCE THAT NIGHT HE KNELT ALONE ATOP THE SACRED CLIFFS OVER LOOKING THE BURIAL GROUND OF HIS FOREFATHERS, AND BEHOLD A FALLING STAR
AND THE GREAT SPIRIT APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND SPOKE TO HIM IN A VISION
HEED MY WORDS, SON OF THE SUN TRIBE. I HAVE BEHELD THE SIGN IN THE HEAVENS
GO TO THE SPOT WHERE THE FLAMING STAR WAS FALLEN AND GATHER TO YOURSELF THE GLOWING DUST FROM THE HEAVENS.

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WOW! MY VERY OWN –

ELECTRONIC MARVELS!!

TV AS SEEN ON T.V.

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Quantity
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I have enclosed
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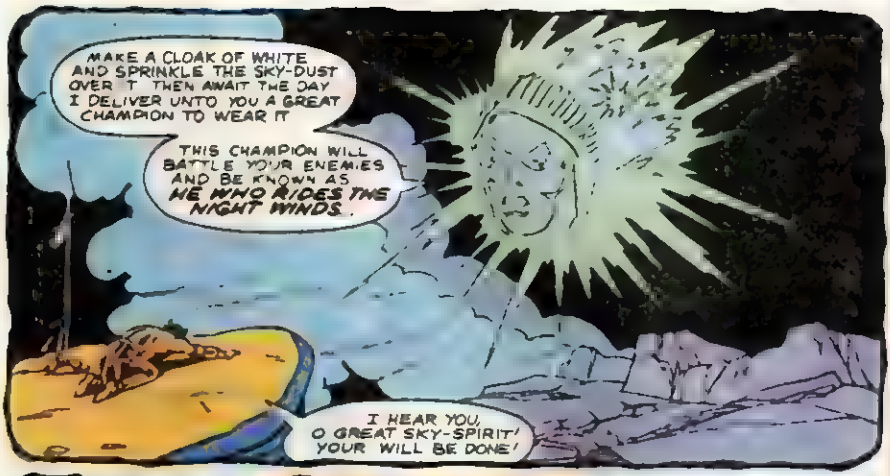
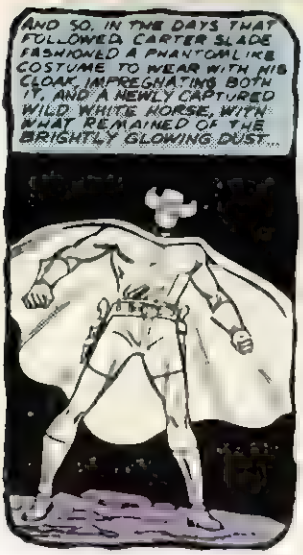

MAKE A CLOAK OF WHITE AND SPRINKLE THE SKY-DUST OVER IT. THEN AWAIT THE DAY I DELIVER UNTO YOU A GREAT CHAMPION TO WEAR IT
THIS CHAMPION WILL BATTLE YOUR ENEMIES AND BE KNOWN AS HE WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS.
I HEAR YOU, O GREAT SKY-SPIRIT! YOUR WILL BE DONE!

AND SO, FLAMING STAR SAW IN CARTER SLADE THE CHAMP ON SENT BY THE GREAT SPIRIT NURSING HIM BACK TO HEALTH. THE MEDICINE MAN TOLD SLADE OF HIS SPECIAL CALLING
THOUGH SLADE WAS DUBIOUS AT FIRST, AT LAST HE ACCEPTED HIS SPECIAL MISSION...


AND SO, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, CARTER SLADE FASHIONED A PHANTOM-LIKE COSTUME TO WEAR WITH HIS CLOAK, IMPREGNATING BOTH IT, AND A NEWLY CAPTURED WILD WHITE HORSE, WITH WHAT REMAINED OF THE BRIGHTLY GLOWING DUST...

BECAUSE THE INSIDE OF THE CLOAK WAS AS BLACK AS NIGHT, SLADE FOUND THAT BY REVERSING IT HE COULD MAKE THE ENTIRE LOWER HALF OF HIS BODY SEEM TO DISAPPEAR...

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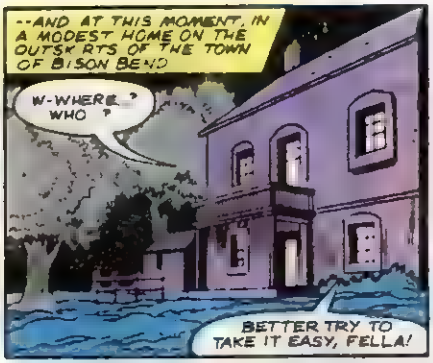
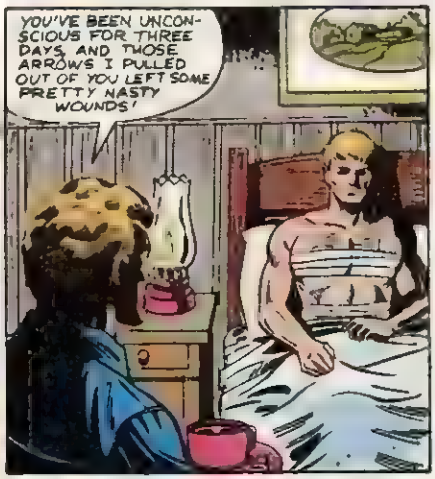
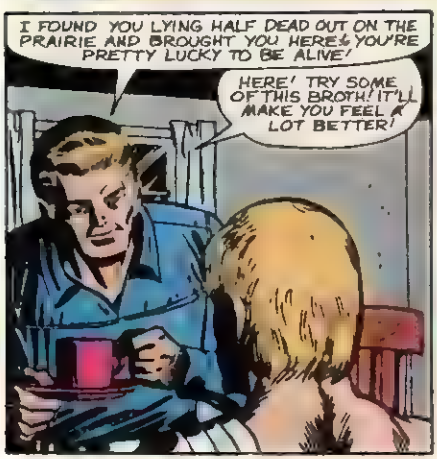
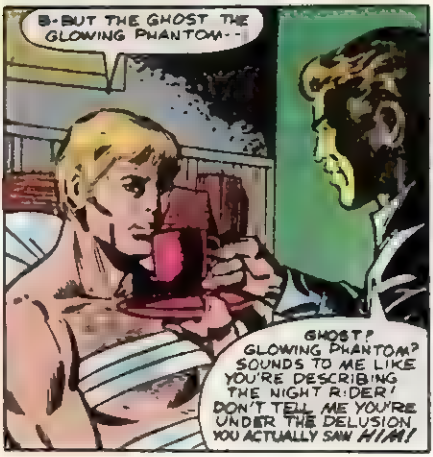
AND THUS WAS BORN THE EERIEST LEGEND OF THE UNTAMED FRONTIER THAT OF THE GRIM-VISAGED PHANTOM WHO APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE TO THWART EVIL MEN
NIGHT RIDER
THREE DAYS HAVE NOW PASSED SINCE THE NIGHT RIDER'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE SORELY WOUNDED JOHNNY BLAZE--






I FOUND YOU LYING HALF DEAD OUT ON THE PRAIRIE AND BROUGHT YOU HERE! YOU'RE PRETTY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!
HERE! TRY SOME OF THIS BROTH! IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL A LOT BETTER!


B-BUT THE GHOST THE GLOWING PHANTOM--
GHOST? GLOWING PHANTOM? SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE DESCRIBING THE NIGHT RIDER! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE UNDER THE DELUSION YOU ACTUALLY SAW HIM!

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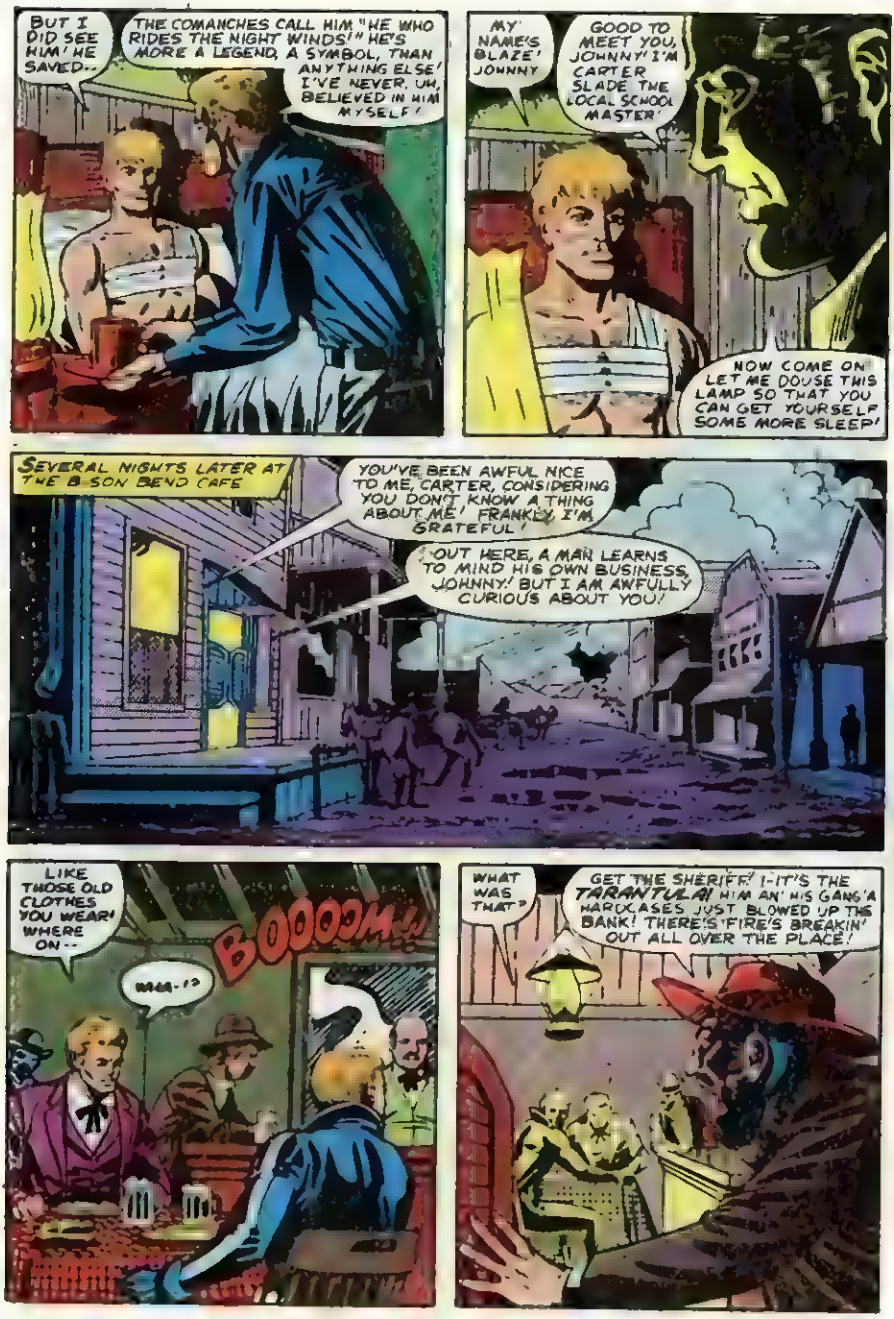
BUT I DID SEE HIM! HE SAVED--
THE COMANCHES CALL HIM "HE WHO RIDES THE NIGHT WINDS!" HE'S MORE A LEGEND, A SYMBOL, THAN ANYTHING ELSE! I'VE NEVER, UH, BELIEVED IN HIM MYSELF!
MY NAME'S BLAZE! JOHNNY
GOOD TO MEET YOU, JOHNNY! I'M CARTER SLADE, THE LOCAL SCHOOL MASTER!
NOW COME ON, LET ME DOUSE THIS LAMP SO THAT YOU CAN GET YOURSELF SOME MORE SLEEP!
SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER AT THE BISON BEND CAFE
YOU'VE BEEN AWFUL NICE TO ME, CARTER, CONSIDERING YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME! FRANKLY, I'M GRATEFUL!
OUT HERE, A MAN LEARNS TO MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS, JOHNNY! BUT I AM AWFULLY CURIOUS ABOUT YOU!
LIKE THOSE OLD CLOTHES YOU WEAR! WHERE ON--
BOOOOM!!
MMM--!?
WHAT WAS THAT?
GET THE SHERIFF! I-IT'S THE TARANTULA! HIM AN' HIS GANG'A HARDCASES JUST BLOWED UP THE BANK! THERE'S FIRE'S BREAKIN' OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE!

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INDEED, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, A SCANT TWO BLOCKS AWAY
WHY, YOU SIDEWINDER! YOU DROP THOSE MONEYBAGS OR SO HELP ME I'LL--
HO HO! SUCH NAUGHTY LANGUAGE YOU ARE USING, SEÑOR! PERHAPS THE STING OF THE TARANTULA WILL HELP TO TEACH YOU HOW IT IS THAT POLITE GENTLEMEN SHOULD BE BEHAVING!
SPAKK!
SPAP
WHU-?
ADIOS, AMIGOS! AND MUCHAS GRACIAS FOR ALL THIS VERY FINE DINERO!
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDOW!
WHY, YOU DIRTY--!

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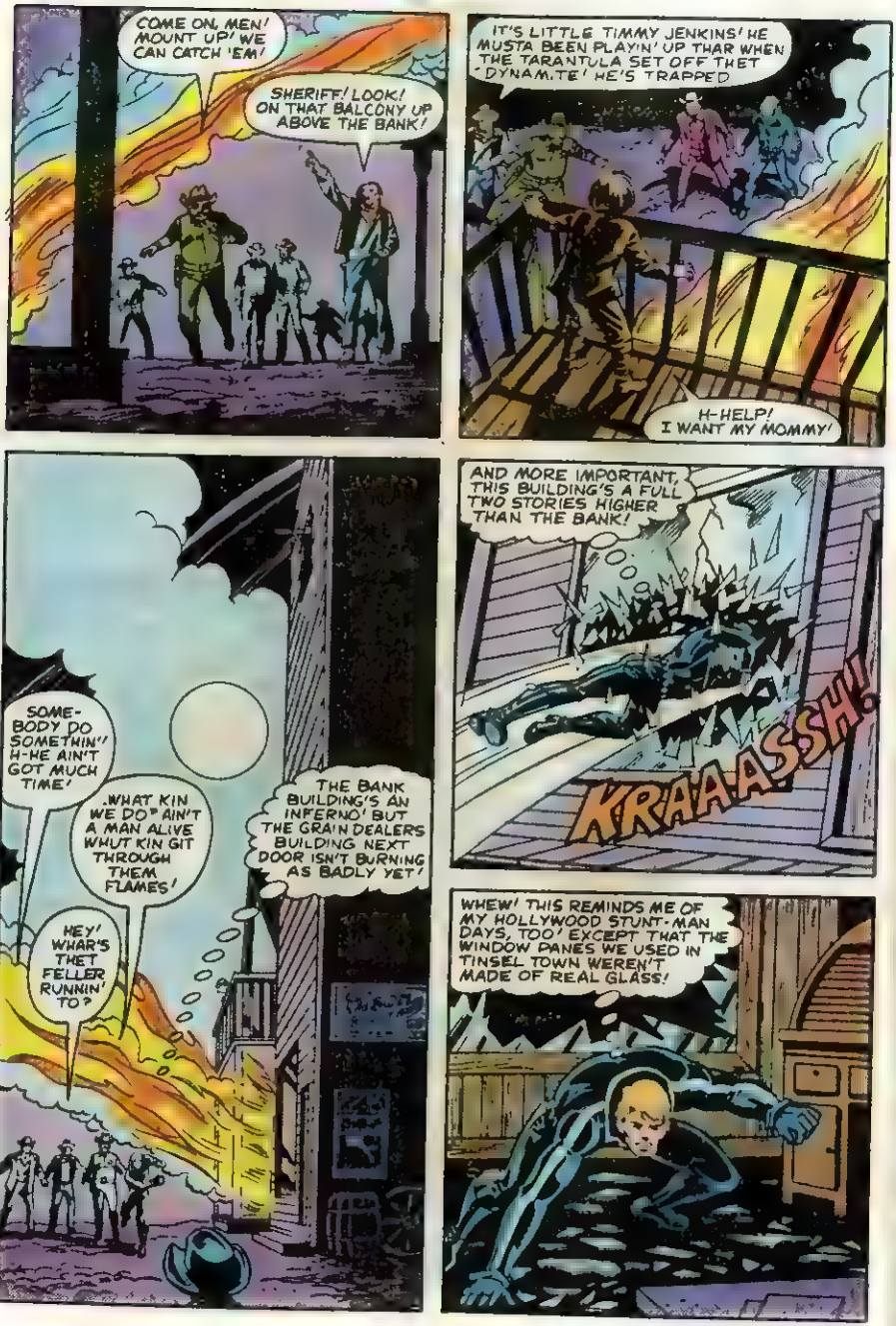
COME ON, MEN! MOUNT UP! WE CAN CATCH 'EM!
SHERIFF! LOOK! ON THAT BALCONY UP ABOVE THE BANK!
IT'S LITTLE TIMMY JENKINS! HE MUSTA BEEN PLAYIN' UP THAR WHEN THE TARANTULA SET OFF THET DYNAM.TE! HE'S TRAPPED
H-HELP! I WANT MY MOMMY!
SOME-BODY DO SOMETHIN'! H-HE AIN'T GOT MUCH TIME!
.WHAT KIN WE DO" AIN'T A MAN ALIVE WHUT KIN GIT THROUGH THEM FLAMES!
HEY! WHAR'S THET FELLER RUNNIN' TO?
THE BANK BUILDING'S AN INFERNO! BUT THE GRAIN DEALERS BUILDING NEXT DOOR ISN'T BURNING AS BADLY YET!
AND MORE IMPORTANT, THIS BUILDING'S A FULL TWO STORIES HIGHER THAN THE BANK!
KRAA-ASSH!
WHEW! THIS REMINDS ME OF MY HOLLYWOOD STUNT-MAN DAYS, TOO! EXCEPT THAT THE WINDOW PANES WE USED IN TINSEL TOWN WEREN'T MADE OF REAL GLASS!

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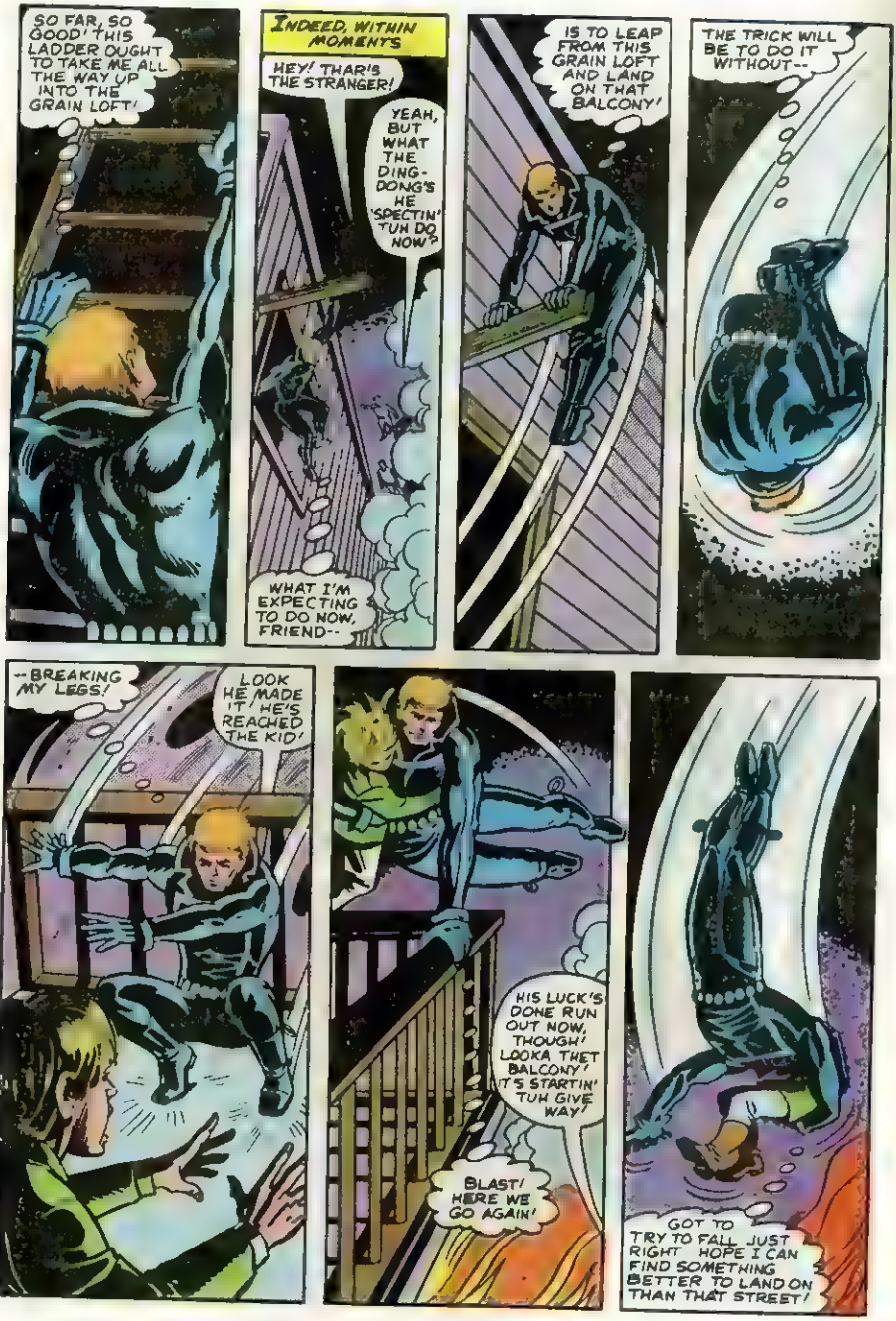
SO FAR, SO GOOD! THIS LADDER OUGHT TO TAKE ME ALL THE WAY UP INTO THE GRAIN LOFT!
INDEED, WITHIN MOMENTS
HEY! THAR'S THE STRANGER!
YEAH, BUT WHAT THE DING-DONG'S HE 'SPECTIN' TUH DO NOW?
WHAT I'M EXPECTING TO DO NOW, FRIEND--
IS TO LEAP FROM THIS GRAIN LOFT AND LAND ON THAT BALCONY!
THE TRICK WILL BE TO DO IT WITHOUT--
--BREAKING MY LEGS!
LOOK HE MADE IT HE'S REACHED THE KID!
HIS LUCK'S DONE RUN OUT NOW, THOUGH! LOOKA THET BALCONY! IT'S STARTIN' TUH GIVE WAY!
BLAST! HERE WE GO AGAIN!
GOT TO TRY TO FALL JUST RIGHT HOPE I CAN FIND SOMETHING BETTER TO LAND ON THAN THAT STREET!

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THE GRAIN WAGON! IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT!
YA WOOO!
WHUMPP
MY BABY!
THAT WAS INCREDIBLE JOHNNY! WHERE IN EARTH DID YOU LEARN TO DO STUNTS LIKE THAT?
CAN'T TELL HIM I USED TO WORK IN A MOVIE LOT IN THE ERA WHERE MOVIES HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN INVENTED YET!
I, UH... USED TO WORK IN A CIRCUS CARTOON THAT'S
AH SEE! THAT'S WHY OF COURSE THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THOSE STRANGE CLOTHES YOU'RE WEARING!
SADDLE UP! WE'S ALL GETTIN' SET TO JUMP HEAD FIRST AFTER THE TARANTULA!
BLAM
UH OH! LOOKS LIKE THIS HERE'S AS FAR AS WE GO TOGETHER! THEM OUTLAWS WENT AN' DYNAMITED THE VILLAGES AN' AVALANCHE YON BLOCKED THE TRAIL SO WE GET AROUND THEM JASPERS COULD BE HALFWAY TO CALIFORNIA!
FRANKLY, I'S JUST AS WELL BE ALONE! I'LL BE A LOT MORE LIKELY TO LOCATE THOSE OUTLAWS AS THE NIGHT RIDER AN' THE NIGHT RIDER ALWAYS RIDES BEST WHEN HE RIDES ALONE!

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BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER I'VE GOT TO START THINKING ABOUT FINDING MY WAY BACK TO MY OWN ERA! AND GETTING AWAY FROM CARTER WILL
BUT AN HOUR LATER, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT...
THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE SOMEWHERE NOT FAR FROM HERE!
I OUGHT TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING! UNARMED, UP AGAINST A DOZEN MEN, I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE!
JOHNNY BLAZE
WHICH MEANS THAT LIKE IT OR NOT, UNLESS I WANT TO JUST SIT HERE AND LET THOSE DESPERADOES GO SCOT-FREE--
--I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT MY FAITH IN--
THE GHOST RIDER--

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AND SO IT IS THAT ON A DARKENED PRAIRIE OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO A SATANIC AVENGER SERPENTINES FORTH A BLACK GARBED HAND TO MATERIALIZE A CYCLE OF BLAZING HELLFIRE
AND THEN
HOW IMPATIENT I BECOME, WAITING FOR MY MORTAL ALTER EGO TO SET ME FREE - FREE TO UNLEASH MY WRATH ON VILLAINOUS SOULS DESERVING TO WRITHE IN HELLFIRE!
OOOOO
LOOK! I-IT'S SOME KINDA SKELETON! AND IT'S RIDIN TOWARD US ON... ON WHEELS OF FIRE!
I-IT'S THE GRIM REAPER HE'S COMIN' TUH PUNISH US FOR ALL THE CRIMES WE DONE
SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT MUST JUST BE SOME KIND OF TRICK?
GO ON THEN! SHOOT IT!
W-WE'RE TRYIN', BOSS! HONEST WE'RE TRYIN'!
KPOW! KPOW!
BDAM!
BOOM!
KPOW!
BDAM!
BDAM!
Y-YEAH, BOSS! BUT LOOK! THE SLUGS! THEY'RE HITTIN' 'IM DEAD CENTER AN' HE AIN'T EVEN SLOWIN' DOWN!

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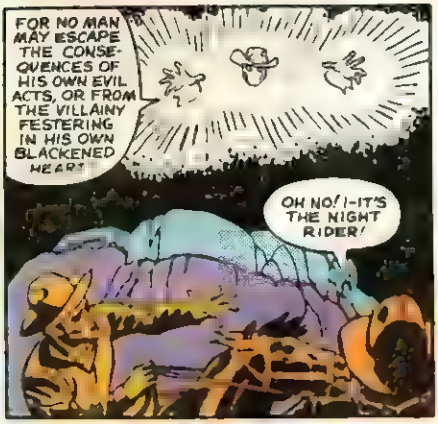
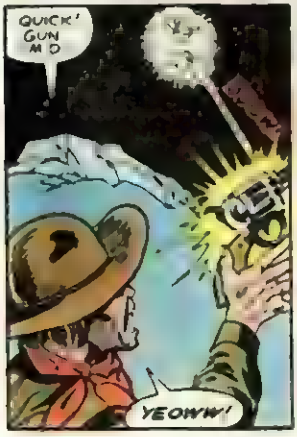
TERRIFIED AT THE FAILURE OF THE 8 BILLETS TO BRING DOWN THE FEARSOME DEMON, THE OUTLAWS BREAK RANKS AND BEGIN GALLOPING OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS
- UNLESS TO HAVE THREE OF THEIR NUMBER DRAGGED SCREAMING FROM THE 8 HORSES AND SCALDED IN A MAELSTROM OF BLAZING HELLFIRE


FOR NO MAN MAY ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS OWN EVIL ACTS, OR FROM THE VILLAINY FESTERING IN HIS OWN BLACKENED HEART
OH NO! - IT'S THE NIGHT RIDER!



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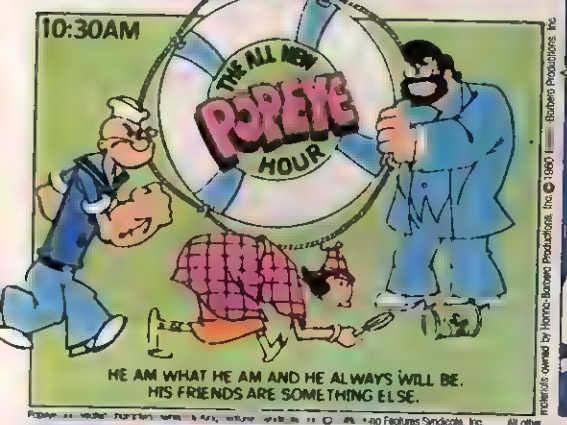
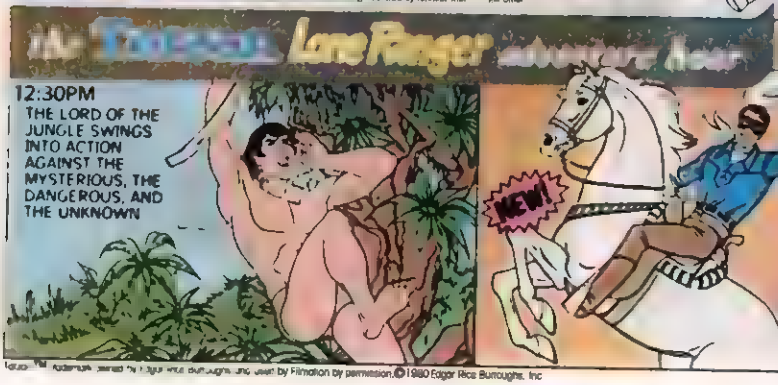
8AM
THE NEW ADVENTURES of
MIGHTY MOUSE AND HECKLE AND JECKLE
HERE HE COMES TO START THE DAY, ALONG WITH THOSE MAGPIES WHO'LL PUT YOU AWAY.


10:30AM
THE ALL NEW POPEYE HOUR
HE AM WHAT HE AM AND HE ALWAYS WILL BE. HIS FRIENDS ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
Characters owned by Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. © 1980 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.
All other


The Fantastic Lone Ranger adventure hour
12:30PM
THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE SWINGS INTO ACTION AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS, THE DANGEROUS, AND THE UNKNOWN
NEW!
RETURN WITH US NO TO THOSE THRILLI DAYS OF YES YEAR WITH A NEW ADVENTUR OF THE MASKE MAN & HIS INDI COMPANION, TONTO
© 1980 Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc

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8:30AM

NEW!

THE TOM AND JERRY COMEDY SHOW

TO CATCH OR NOT TO CATCH— THAT IS THE QUEST. WITH WACKY TACTICS THE METHOD TO THEIR CAT AND MOUSE MADNESS.

© 1980 Metro Goldwyn Mayer Inc.

9AM

THE [illegible] SHOW

THE "BUNNY" AND THE "BIRD" ARE BACK. ALONG WITH THEIR HILARIOUS CAST OF LOONIES. AND THAT AIN'T ALL, FOLKS.

© Warner Bros. Inc. 1980

Dark

© 1980 Hanna-Barbera Pty. Ltd.

12 NOON

THE NEW FAT ALBERT SHOW

NEW TIME!

FAT ALBERT AND THE DUDES ARE STILL DOING IT RIGHT, FALLING ALL OVER EACH OTHER BUT COMING UP TIGHT

© 1980 William H. Cosby, Jr. Ferrington Associates

1:30PM

30 MINUTES

CONTROVERSIAL, HARD-HITTING REPORTS ON CURRENT ISSUES DIRECTLY AFFECTING YOU.

IN THE NEWS

THROUGHOUT THE MORNING, YOU'LL RECEIVE BRIEF COMMENTARIES ON THE ACTION BEHIND EACH WEEK'S HEADLINES.

LIVE ACTION

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STARTING SEPTEMBER 6TH

CBS

SATURDAY

WE NOW RETURN CONTROL OF THIS COMIC BOOK TO YOU.

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HERE TO METE OUT THE JUSTICE YOU AND YOUR VILE BRETHREN SO RICHLY DESERVE!
GHAAA!
C-COME ON, TARANTULA! PLEASE! I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO THIS OUTFIT TO... TO TAKE ON NO SPOOKS!
AAAGGHH!
WHAMM!
GIDDAP, YOU NAG! GIDDUP!
THE TARANTULA AND HIS REMAINING HENCHMEN ARE RUNNING! I CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
TO ME, BANSHEE!
BOSS! W-WHUT'RE WE GONNA DO, BOSS? THAT SKELETON DEMON HAS FINISHED WORKIN' OVER THE OTHER GUYS, AN' NOW BOTH HIM AN' THE NIGHT RIDER IS COMIN' AFTER US!
YOU SNIVELING COWARD! IT'S ALL A TRICK, I TELL YOU!
THESE ARE NOT GHOSTS THAT SEEK TO AVENGE MEN. US BUT GHOST MEN! MEN AND I AM GOING TO PROVE IT TO YOU.

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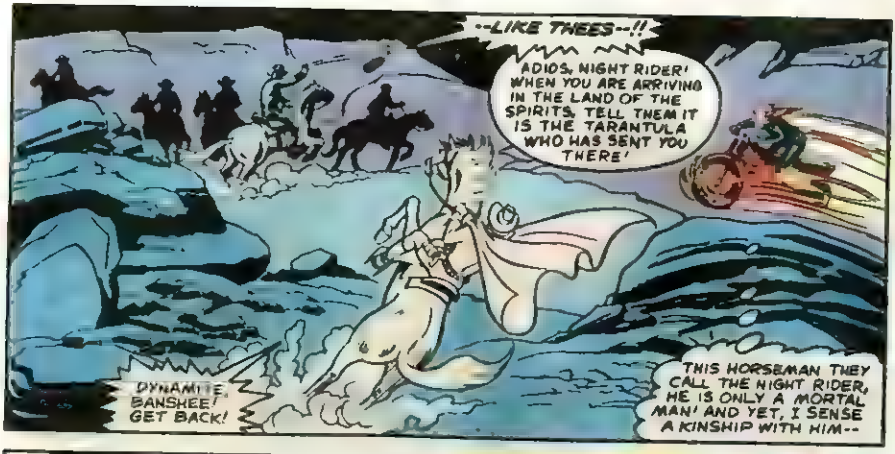
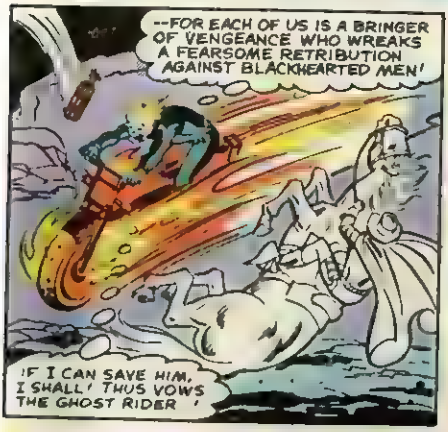
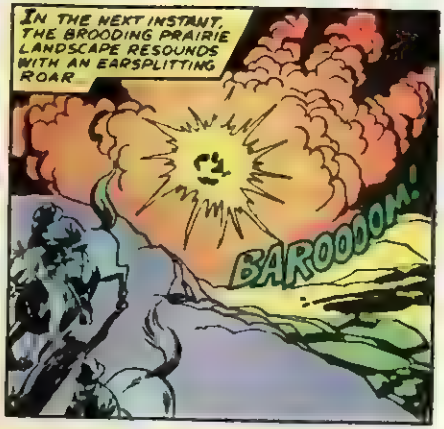

--LIKE THEES--!!
ADIOS, NIGHT RIDER! WHEN YOU ARE ARRIVING IN THE LAND OF THE SPIRITS, TELL THEM IT IS THE TARANTULA WHO HAS SENT YOU THERE!
DYNAMITE BANSHEE! GET BACK!
THIS HORSEMAN THEY CALL THE NIGHT RIDER, HE IS ONLY A MORTAL MAN! AND YET, I SENSE A KINSHIP WITH HIM--


--FOR EACH OF US IS A BRINGER OF VENGEANCE WHO WREAKS A FEARSOME RETRIBUTION AGAINST BLACKHEARTED MEN!
'IF I CAN SAVE HIM, I SHALL' THUS VOWS THE GHOST RIDER '



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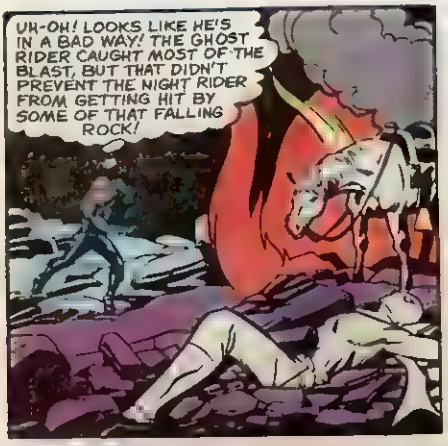
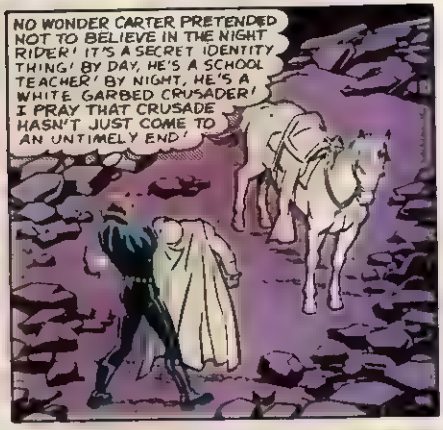
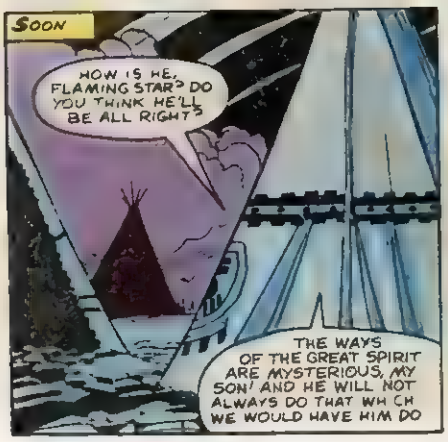
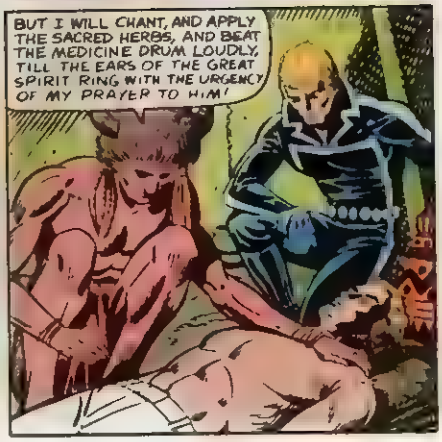

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A BAD WAY! THE GHOST RIDER CAUGHT MOST OF THE BLAST, BUT THAT DIDN'T PREVENT THE NIGHT RIDER FROM GETTING HIT BY SOME OF THAT FALLING ROCK!

DON'T WORRY, FELLA! YOU'RE GONNA BE OKAY! I'LL GET YOU TO A DOCTOR JUST AS FAST AS I CAN!
N-NO! NO DOCTOR! TAKE ME TO COMANCHE VILLAGE! MAP IN SADDLE-BAGS

TAKE ME TO TO FLAMING STAR
HOLY TOLEDO! HIS VOICE! IT'S CARTER SLADE'S VOICE! BENEATH THIS SPOOKY GETUP, THE NIGHT RIDER IS REALLY CARTER SLADE!


NO WONDER CARTER PRETENDED NOT TO BELIEVE IN THE NIGHT RIDER! IT'S A SECRET IDENTITY THING! BY DAY, HE'S A SCHOOL TEACHER! BY NIGHT, HE'S A WHITE GARBED CRUSADER! I PRAY THAT CRUSADE HASN'T JUST COME TO AN UNTIMELY END!


SOON
HOW IS HE, FLAMING STAR? DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
THE WAYS OF THE GREAT SPIRIT ARE MYSTERIOUS, MY SON! AND HE WILL NOT ALWAYS DO THAT WH CH WE WOULD HAVE HIM DO


BUT I WILL CHANT, AND APPLY THE SACRED HERBS, AND BEAT THE MEDICINE DRUM LOUDLY, TILL THE EARS OF THE GREAT SPIRIT RING WITH THE URGENCY OF MY PRAYER TO HIM!

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YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT IF THE GREAT SPIRIT ALLOWS THE PHANTOM OF THE NIGHT WINDS TO PERISH, IT WILL BE ONLY OVER MY LOUDEST PROTEST!
I KNOW YOU'LL DO YOUR BEST FOR HIM, FLAMING STAR! I ONLY HOPE HE MAKES IT!
AND SO
WELL, THE NIGHT RIDER'S IN GOOD HANDS, WHICH MEANS NOW I CAN GO BACK TO THE PROBLEM OF HOW THE HECK I'M GOING TO FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!
ACCORDING TO THIS MAP I FOUND IN BANSHEE'S SADDLEBAG, FLAMING STAR'S VILLAGE IS ONLY A SHORT HOP FROM THE SACRED BURIAL GROUND!
BUT THE WEIRD CAVERN THAT ENABLED ME TO PASS FROM MY OWN TIME INTO THIS ONE ISN'T MARKED ON THE MAP! WHICH MEANS I'LL JUST HAVE TO RIDE OUT THERE AND POKE AROUND UNTIL I FIND IT!
BUT
OH, BROTHER! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW! THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAINSIDE IS HONEYCOMBED WITH CAVERNS! HOW IN BLAZES AM I SUPPOSED TO LOCATE THE RIGHT ONE, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT?

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MEANWHILE
FATHER! FATHER! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! THE GREAT SPIRIT, WHO GRANTED ME THE POWERS OF A SEER AT MY BIRTH, HAS JUST GRANTED ME A TERRIBLE VISION!
WHAT!? WHAT IS THIS TERRIBLE VISION OF WHICH YOU SPEAK?
THERE IS A HIDEOUS CREATURE, MY FATHER! OUTWARDLY, HE IS A MAN! BUT INWARDLY, HE IS A FEARSOME DEMON! EVEN NOW HE HAS INVADED THE SACRED BURIAL GROUND OF OUR FOREFATHERS!
THERE IS BUT ONE MEANS BY WHICH TO COPE WITH A DIRE THREAT SUCH AS THIS, MY DAUGHTER! YOU MUST RIDE AT ONCE TO THE SACRED CLIFF! YOU MUST USE THE MIGHTY POWER BEQUEATHED TO YOU BY THE GREAT SPIRIT TO SUMMON FORTH WISA'KA THE MANITOU* TO ANNIHILATE THIS EVIL DEMON!
*THE SUPER-NATURAL INDIAN SPIRIT THAT BATTLED GR LAST ISSUE;-D.
AND SO
DISMOUNTING HASTILY FROM HER SPOTTED PONY, FLAMING STAR'S DAUGHTER SEATS HERSELF CROSS-LEGGED ON THE EDGE OF THE JUTTING PROMONTORY AND LAPSES INTO AN EERIE TRANCE
WAH-NEEH-OH-NAH.. PEE-HAH-SEY-NAH..

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AND AS SHE CHANTS, AN EERIE, GLOWING FORCE BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE NEARBY...
A FORCE THAT GRADUALLY BEGINS GROWING, SHIFTING...
TRANSFORMING ITSELF BY DEGREES INTO THE GLOWING IMAGE OF A GHOSTLY WARRIOR MOUNTED ASTRIDE A WRAITH-LIKE STEED...
WHILE DOWN BELOW THE CLIFF, ON THE SITE OF THE SACRED BURIAL GROUND
I'VE BEEN IN AND OUT OF AT LEAST TWENTY OF THESE CAVERNS, AND STILL NO LUCK!
IF I EXPECT--
OH NO! I--IT'S STARTING TO HAPPEN TO ME! THE SAME THING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME LATELY WHENEVER I'M IN THE VICINITY OF THAT...THAT WEIRD INDIAN SPIRIT!*
CHECK OUT GR #49 --D.
EVEN WITHOUT MY WILLING IT, MY MORTALITY IS STARTING TO SLIP AWAY FROM ME, TRANSFORMING ME INTO--
"--THE GHOST RIDER--!"*
HASTILY, THE BRIMSTONE BIKER STRETCHES FORTH A BLACK-GARBED HAND TO MATERIALIZE A A THRUMMING HELL-BIKE OF EERIE FIRE...

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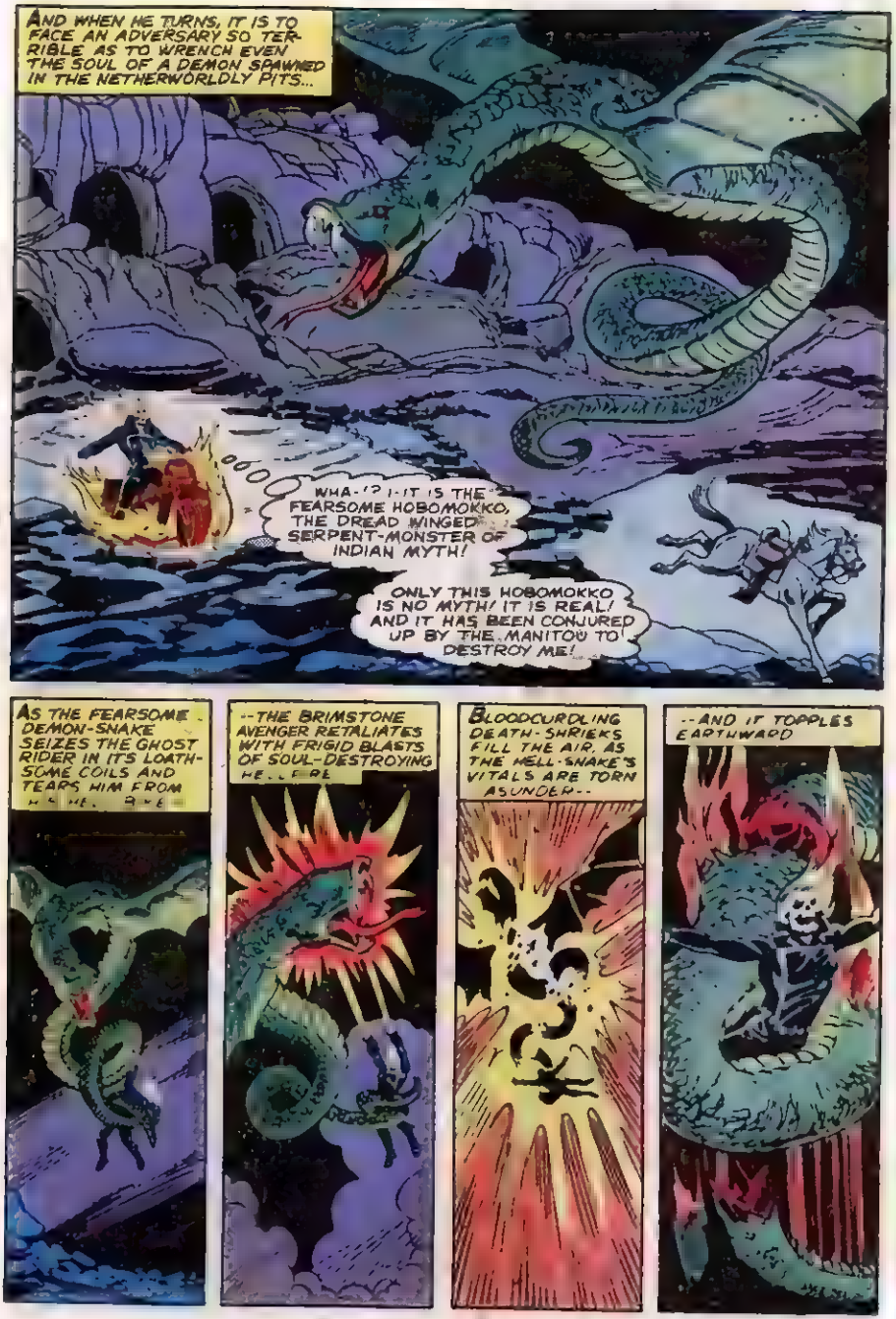
AND WHEN HE TURNS, IT IS TO FACE AN ADVERSARY SO TERRIBLE AS TO WRENCH EVEN THE SOUL OF A DEMON SPAWNED IN THE NETHERWORLDLY PITS...
WHA-!? I-IT IS THE FEARSOME HOBOMOKKO, THE DREAD WINGED SERPENT-MONSTER OF INDIAN MYTH!
ONLY THIS HOBOMOKKO IS NO MYTH! IT IS REAL! AND IT HAS BEEN CONJURED UP BY THE MANITOU TO DESTROY ME!
AS THE FEARSOME DEMON-SNAKE SEIZES THE GHOST RIDER IN ITS LOATHSOME COILS AND TEARS HIM FROM HIS HELL-BIKE
--THE BRIMSTONE AVENGER RETALIATES WITH FRIGID BLASTS OF SOUL-DESTROYING HELL-FIRE
BLOODCURDLING DEATH-SHRIEKS FILL THE AIR, AS THE HELL-SNAKE'S VITALS ARE TORN ASUNDER--
--AND IT TOPPLES EARTHWARD

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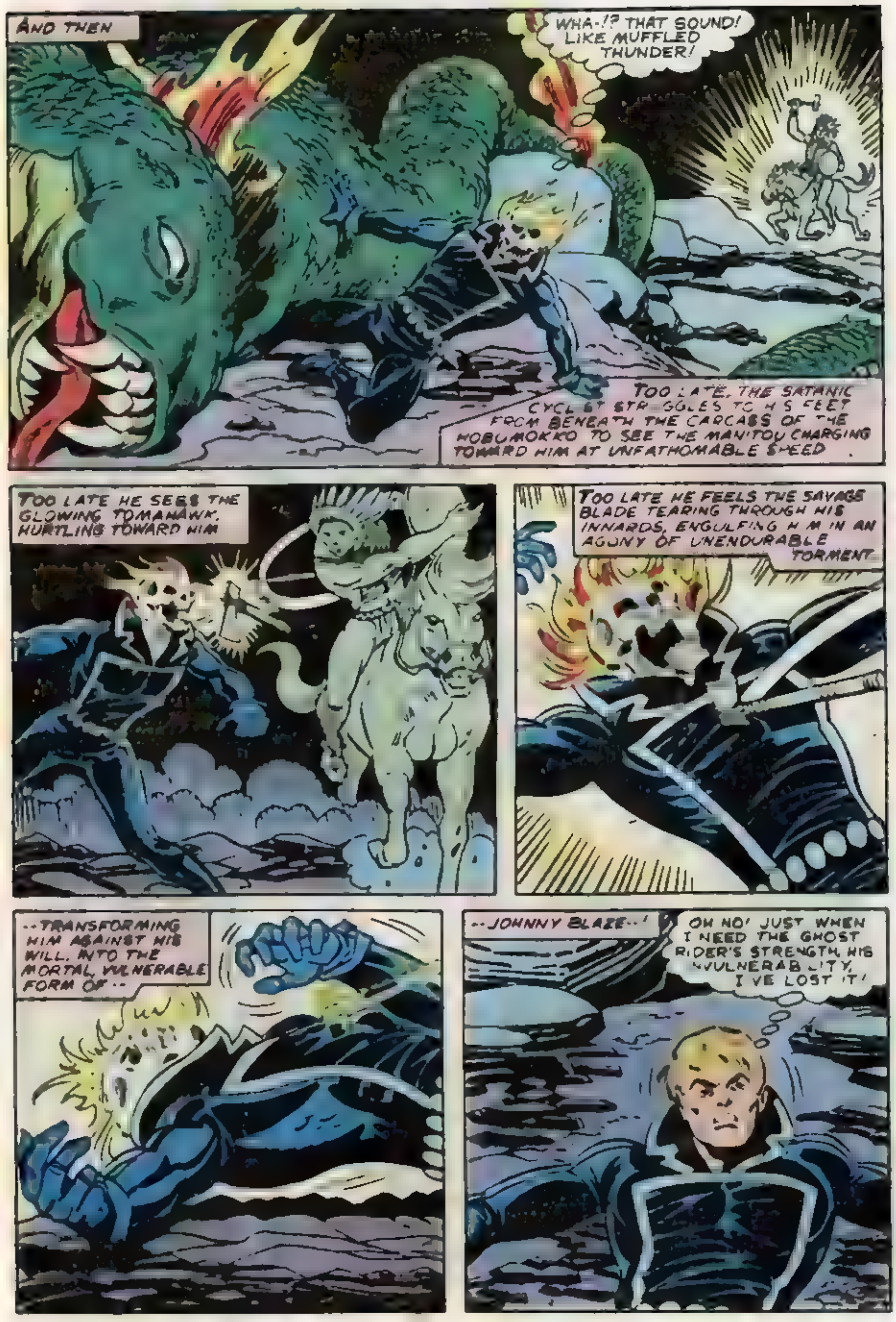
AND THEN
WHA-!? THAT SOUND! LIKE MUFFLED THUNDER!
TOO LATE, THE SATANIC CYCLIST STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET FROM BENEATH THE CARCASS OF THE HOBUMOKKO TO SEE THE MANITOU CHARGING TOWARD HIM AT UNFATHOMABLE SPEED
TOO LATE HE SEES THE GLOWING TOMAHAWK, HURTLING TOWARD HIM
TOO LATE HE FEELS THE SAVAGE BLADE TEARING THROUGH HIS INNARDS, ENGULFING H M IN AN AGONY OF UNENDURABLE TORMENT
--TRANSFORMING HIM AGAINST HIS WILL, INTO THE MORTAL, VULNERABLE FORM OF--
--JOHNNY BLAZE--!
OH NO! JUST WHEN I NEED THE GHOST RIDER'S STRENGTH, HIS VULNERAB L'TY, I'VE LOST IT!

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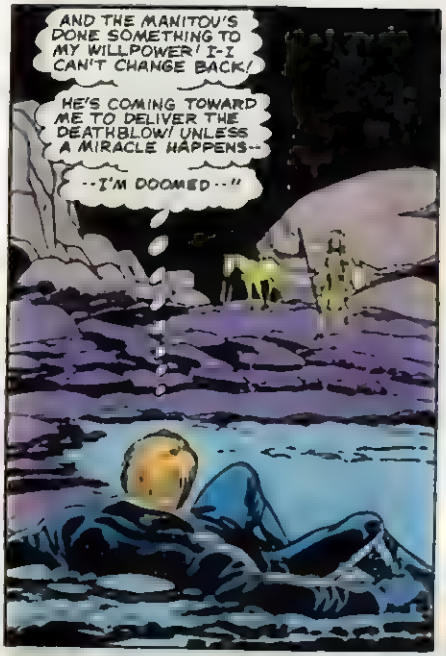
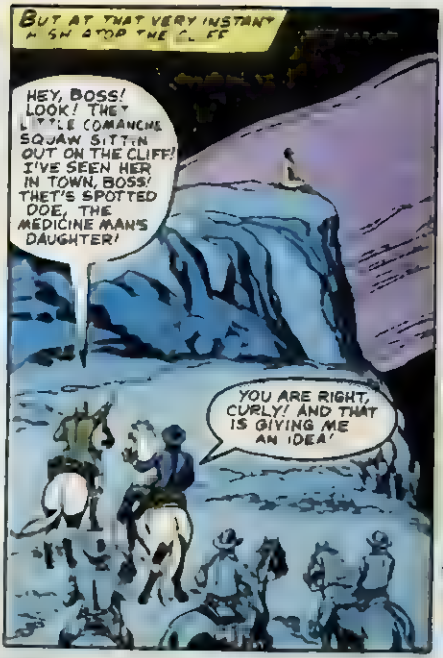
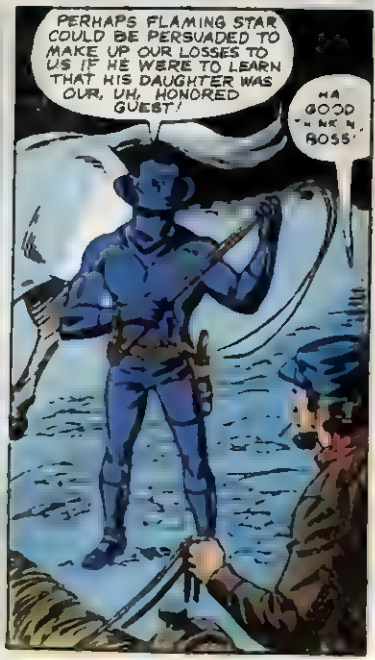

AND THE MANITOU'S DONE SOMETHING TO MY WILLPOWER! I-I CAN'T CHANGE BACK!
HE'S COMING TOWARD ME TO DELIVER THE DEATHBLOW! UNLESS A MIRACLE HAPPENS--
--I'M DOOMED--!!


BUT AT THAT VERY INSTANT
HEY, BOSS! LOOK! THE LITTLE COMANCHE SQUAW SITTIN OUT ON THE CLIFF! I'VE SEEN HER IN TOWN, BOSS! THET'S SPOTTED DOE, THE MEDICINE MAN'S DAUGHTER!
YOU ARE RIGHT, CURLY! AND THAT IS GIVING ME AN IDEA!

MUCH OF OUR HARD-EARNED BANK LOOT WAS LOST TO US THIS NIGHT DURING OUR VIOLENT ENCOUNTER WITH THE NIGHT RIDER AND THE SKELETON OF FLAME!


PERHAPS FLAMING STAR COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE UP OUR LOSSES TO US IF HE WERE TO LEARN THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS OUR, UH, HONORED GUEST!
HA GOOD THINK N, BOSS!

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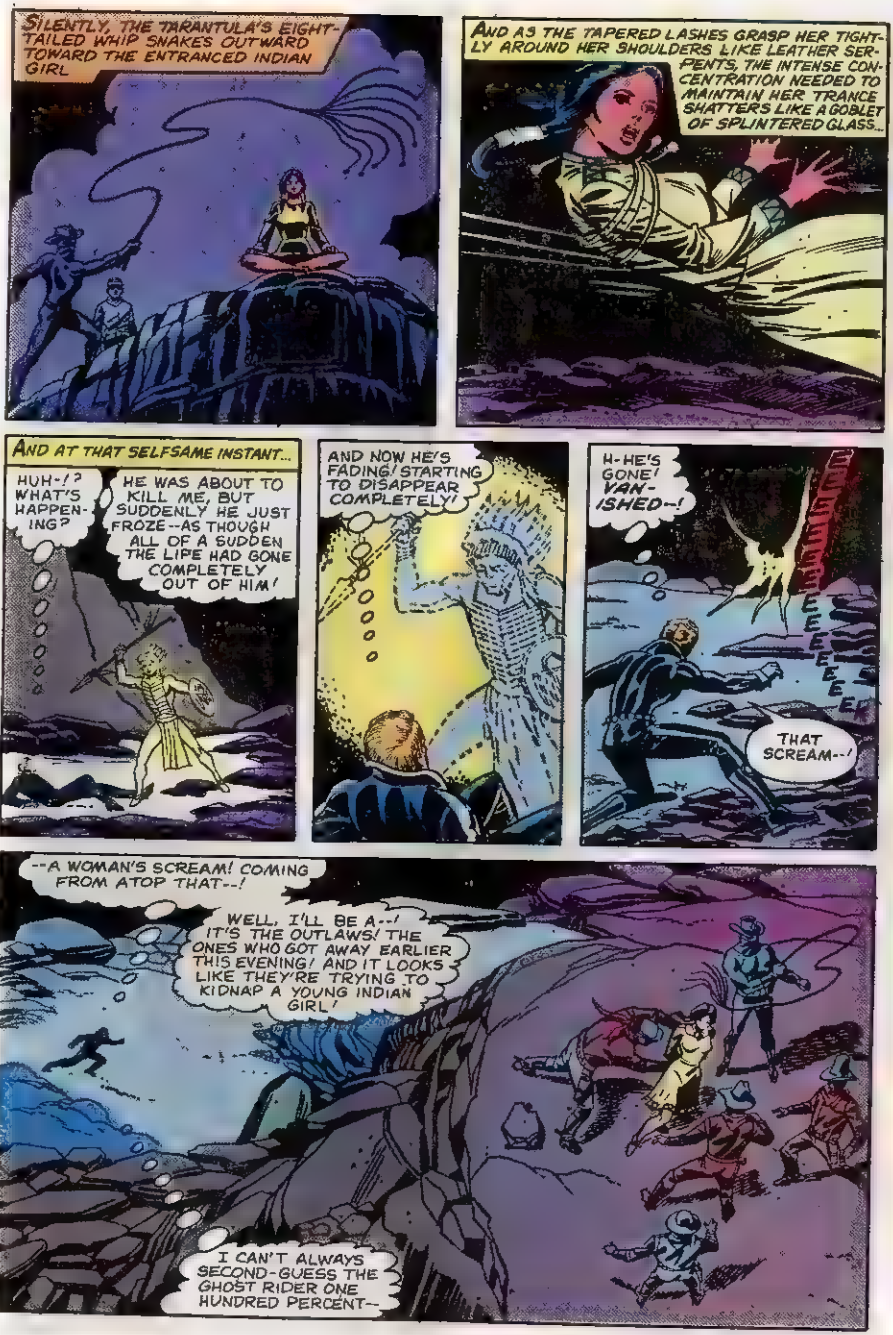
SILENTLY, THE TARANTULA'S EIGHT-TAILED WHIP SNAKES OUTWARD TOWARD THE ENTRANCED INDIAN GIRL
AND AS THE TAPERED LASHES GRASP HER TIGHTLY AROUND HER SHOULDERS LIKE LEATHER SERPENTS, THE INTENSE CONCENTRATION NEEDED TO MAINTAIN HER TRANCE SHATTERS LIKE A GOBLET OF SPLINTERED GLASS..
AND AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...
HUH-!? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
HE WAS ABOUT TO KILL ME, BUT SUDDENLY HE JUST FROZE--AS THOUGH ALL OF A SUDDEN THE LIFE HAD GONE COMPLETELY OUT OF HIM!
AND NOW HE'S FADING! STARTING TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY!
H-HE'S GONE! VANISHED--!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THAT SCREAM--!
--A WOMAN'S SCREAM! COMING FROM ATOP THAT--!
WELL, I'LL BE A--! IT'S THE OUTLAWS! THE ONES WHO GOT AWAY EARLIER THIS EVENING! AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO KIDNAP A YOUNG INDIAN GIRL!
I CAN'T ALWAYS SECOND-GUESS THE GHOST RIDER ONE HUNDRED PERCENT--

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· BUT AFTER NEARLY GETTING PUT OUT OF COMMISSION PERMANENTLY BY THE MAN! TOU'S TOMAHAWK ·
··I'D SAY IT WAS PRETTY SAFE TO ASSUME HE'S IN THE MOOD ·
··FOR VENGEANCE··!
WHILE BACK ATOP THE CLIFF
HOLD STILL, YOU GRIMY LITTLE
YEOWW! SHE BIT ME!
THE WOMAN'S BITE SHALL SEEM LIKE AN ANGEL'S KISS, LAWBREAKER··
··COMPARED TO THE SOUL-SEARING HELL-FLAME OF THE GHOST RIDER!
THE SOUND OF AGONIZED SHRIEKING SHATTERS THE MOON DRENCHED NIGHT, AS THE SATANIC CYCLIST HURTLES AMONG THE TERRIFIED OUTLAWS, SEARING THEIR FLESH AND SCALDING THEIR VERY SOULS WITH FEARSOME BLASTS...

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FINALLY
HOLD IT . WHATEVER YOU ARE! WE'RE WHIPPED!
YOUR WHINING DISGUSTS ME, VERMIN! BUT I WILL SPARE YOU MY FURTHER WRATH IF YOU WILL RIDE AT ONCE TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND CONFESS EVERYTHING!
THE BOSS'S RIGHT! JUST TELL US WHUT YUH WANT US TUH DO, AN' WE'LL DO IT!
WE GOT NO CHOICE.
A SHORT WHILE LATER
WE OWE YOU OUR GRATITUDE, MY SON, AS WELL AS OUR DEEPEST APOLOGIES! MY DAUGHTER KNEW ONLY THAT A DEMONIC FORCE MENACED OUR SACRED BURIAL GROUND, NOT THAT THE DEMON DWELLED WITHIN THE SOUL OF A GOOD AND COURAGEOUS MAN LIKE YOU WHO CAN CONTROL THE DEMON AND MAKE HIM USE HIS AWESOME POWER FOR GOOD!
I'M AFRAID THE GHOST RIDER ISN'T REALLY AS MUCH UNDER MY CONTROL AS I'D LIKE HIM TO BE, FLAMING STAR!
THE GHOST RIDER HAS BEEN KNOWN TO DO SOME PRETTY VENGEFUL THINGS! BUT TONIGHT WELL, WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES WERE, HE DID SOME GOOD THINGS THAT MAYBE HELP MAKE UP FOR THEM! HE RESCUED SPOTTED DOE FROM THOSE OUTLAWS--
--AND HE--
--AND HE SAVED MY LIFE, JOHNNY! LET US NOT FORGET THAT!
WHA-!? CARTER? I-IS THAT YOU?

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INDEED IT IS, JOHNNY! BUT I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW TO CARRY ON AS THE NIGHT RIDER IF THE GHOST RIDER HADN'T USED HIS DEMONIC POWERS TO SNATCH ME FROM THE JAWS OF CERTAIN DEATH!
A MAN CAN'T REALLY EVER REPAY A DEBT LIKE THAT, JOHNNY! BUT MAYBE YOU'LL LET ME SHOW MY GRATITUDE BY ACCEPTING THIS--A MYSTIC AMULET, GIVEN ME BY FLAMING STAR ON THE NIGHT I FIRST BECAME THE NIGHT RIDER!
TAKE IT, JOHNNY! AND CARRY IT WITH YOU ALWAYS! BECAUSE I MAY STRIKE TERROR INTO EVILDOERS' HEARTS BY ASSUMING THE GUISE OF A NIGHT-RIDING GHOST, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND! YOU'RE THE REAL THING! YOU REALLY ARE...A GHOST RIDER!
AND NOW, MY SON, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN HOME. TO YOUR OWN TIME! SPOTTED DOE WILL RETURN YOU TO THE MYSTIC CAVERN AND--
WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED! BEFORE I GO THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU!
IN MY TIME THE BURIAL GROUND IS ABOUT TO BE FLOODED BY EVIL MEN WHO HAVE BLOWN UP THE LITTLE THUNDERBIRD DAM! THE RESTING PLACE OF YOUR FOREFATHERS WILL BE BURIED UNDER A HUNDRED FEET OF WATER!
FEAR NOT MY SON! THE GREAT SPIRIT WILL NOT DESERT HIS PEOPLE IN THEIR TIME OF NEED!

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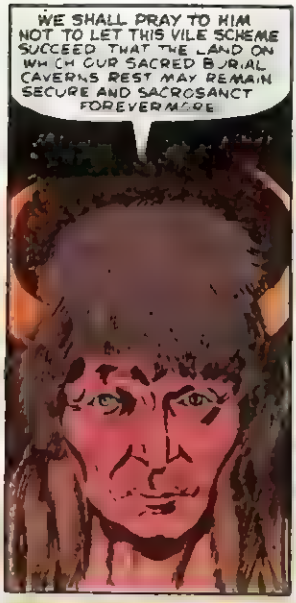
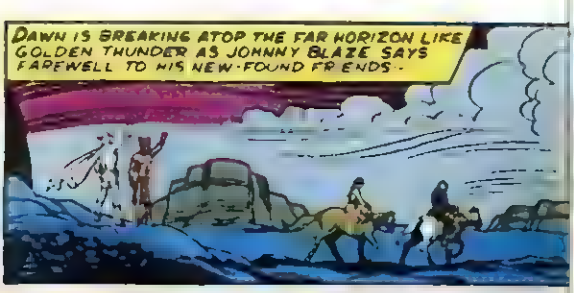
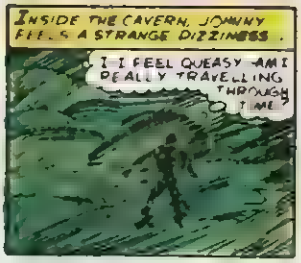
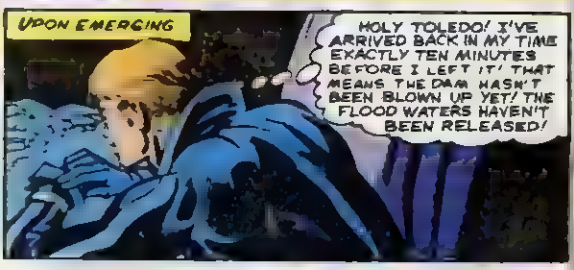
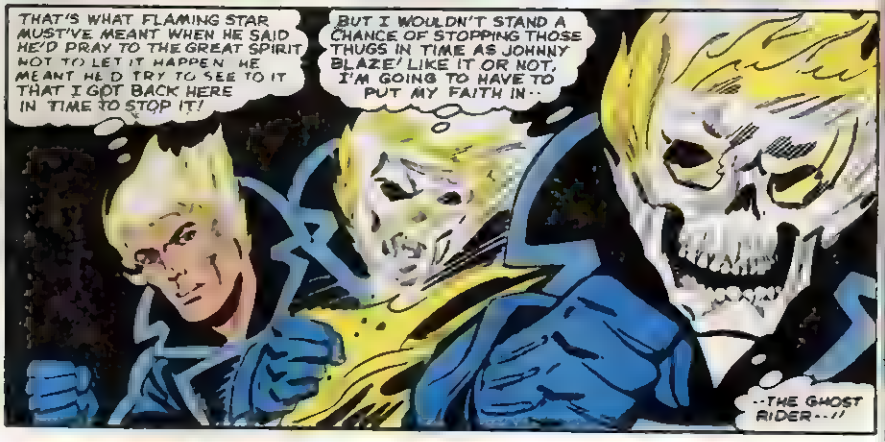

WE SHALL PRAY TO HIM NOT TO LET THIS VILE SCHEME SUCCEED THAT THE LAND ON WHICH OUR SACRED BURIAL CAVERNS REST MAY REMAIN SECURE AND SACROSANCT FOREVERMORE



--AND ACCOMPANIED SPOTTED DOE TO THE MYSTIC CAVERN--
--TO PASS THROUGH IT'S LABYRINTHINE PASSAGEWAYS TO THE WORLD HE LEFT BEHIND




UPON EMERGING
HOLY TOLEDO! I'VE ARRIVED BACK IN MY TIME EXACTLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE I LEFT IT! THAT MEANS THE DAM HASN'T BEEN BLOWN UP YET! THE FLOOD WATERS HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED!


THAT'S WHAT FLAMING STAR MUST'VE MEANT WHEN HE SAID HE'D PRAY TO THE GREAT SPIRIT NOT TO LET IT HAPPEN. HE MEANT HE'D TRY TO SEE TO IT THAT I GOT BACK HERE IN TIME TO STOP IT!
BUT I WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE OF STOPPING THOSE THUGS IN TIME AS JOHNNY BLAZE! LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT MY FAITH IN--
--THE GHOST RIDER--!!

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MOMENTS LATER, HIGH ATOP THE MASSIVE CONCRETE FLOODWALL OF THE LITTLE THUNDERBIRD DAM...
JOE! BENNY! LOOK!
HEY! BENNY! HOW'S SHE COMIN', HUH?
REAL GOOD, JOE! REAL GOOD! IN JUST A FEW SECONDS I'LL HAVE HER ALL--
W-WHAT THE FREAKIN' BLAZES IS IT, JOE? HUH?
I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE! BENNY! HOW YOU COMIN' WITH THAT THING?
SHE'S ALL SET, JOE!
THEN C'MON! LET'S SNAG OUTA HERE THE GUY IN THE SKULL MASK WANTS TO GET BLOWN UP ALONG WITH THE DAM, THAT'S HIS BUSINESS BUT ME, I'M LEAVIN'
BRIMSTONE ENGINES WHINE AS THE GHOST RIDER HURTLES DOWN THE FLOODWALL TOWARDS THE OMINOUSLY TICKING TIME BOMB
WITHOUT ONCE SLACKENING HIS AWESOME SPEED, HE SWEEPS UP THE DEADLY DEVICE IN ONE BLACK GARBED HAND
--AND HURLS IT WITH NETHERWORLDLY POWER HIGH INTO THE MOONLESS SKY--

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TO EXPLODE HARMLESSLY WITH A DEAFENING
BARROOOOOM
AND THEN IN THE FIERY BLINK OF A DEMON'S EYE WE OVERTAKES THE EVILDOERS WHO SET THE BOMB SCALDING THE VERY CORE OF THEIR BLACKENED SOULS WITH RAGING BLASTS OF ICY HELLFIRE
EEAAAAHHHHH
UNTIL FINALLY HIS FEARSOME TASK OF JUDGEMENT IS DONE HE REVS HIS BRISTLE ENGINE TO FULL THROTTLE IN A BLAZE OF METEORIC FIRE
AND HURTLES DOWN THE TAR-BLACK HIGHWAY TOWARD A BLAZING SUNRISE
FAREWELL, DEMON RIDER! MAY THE GREAT SPIRIT RIDE BY YOUR SHOULDER THROUGHOUT ALL YOUR SAD AND ENDLESS JOURNEYS!
THE END

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FIGHTING AN INVISIBLE ENEMY HAS ITS DRAWBACKS
NO MATTER HOW FAR I STRETCH I CAN'T SEEM TO GET MY HANDS ON HIM. BUT WAIT... IMPERCEPTO'S DNA STRUCTURE MAKES HIM MATERIALIZE WHEN HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH GOLD
A SUPER HERO CAN'T AFFORD REAL GOLD THESE DAYS. BUT HERE'S SOMETHING AS GOOD AS GOLD... HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES!
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GHOST WRITERS!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

REFLECTIONS ON A BLAZING SKULL

It has been over eight years since the fiery visage of the Ghost Rider first appeared in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5.

Hard to believe, isn't it?

Yet, after seven SPOTLIGHT appearances and fifty issues of his own magazine, Johnny Blaze and his accursed alter ego have weathered the trials and tribulations of that eight-year run in extraordinary fashion! For instance, Ghost Rider in his time has battled cycle gangs, street thugs, supernatural menaces and super-villains with equal vigor. He has been the victim of demonic manipulation, crooked politicians, and affairs of the heart. He has played the cycle bum, the super hero, and the demon... and, at times, the fool. But he has survived!

Johnny Blaze, the greatest cyclist in the annals of comics, has weathered every trial, taken every challenge! And, cursed though he may be, he lives on!

He's a pretty tough character, this Johnny Blaze. He never planned to be the Ghost Rider, never asked for the demonic transformation that replaces his bodily substance with hellfire and bones... it just sort of happened to him, as the side effect of a bad deal struck with an extradimensional entity that called itself Satan. He's regretted that bargain for every day of his life since. But, despite the death's-head curse and the demonic strength and temperament which hangs over him, Johnny has fought for and retained his soul.

And throughout all of his battles, throughout all the many roles he has played, Johnny Blaze — the Ghost Rider — has become a character who you have taken to your hearts.

And so, to you — the hundreds of thousands of faithful GHOST RIDER readers — this issue is respectfully dedicated!

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